

COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

THIRTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

*Health and Sanitary Condition of
the County*

1924.


BY

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County Medical Officer.

DUMFRIES :

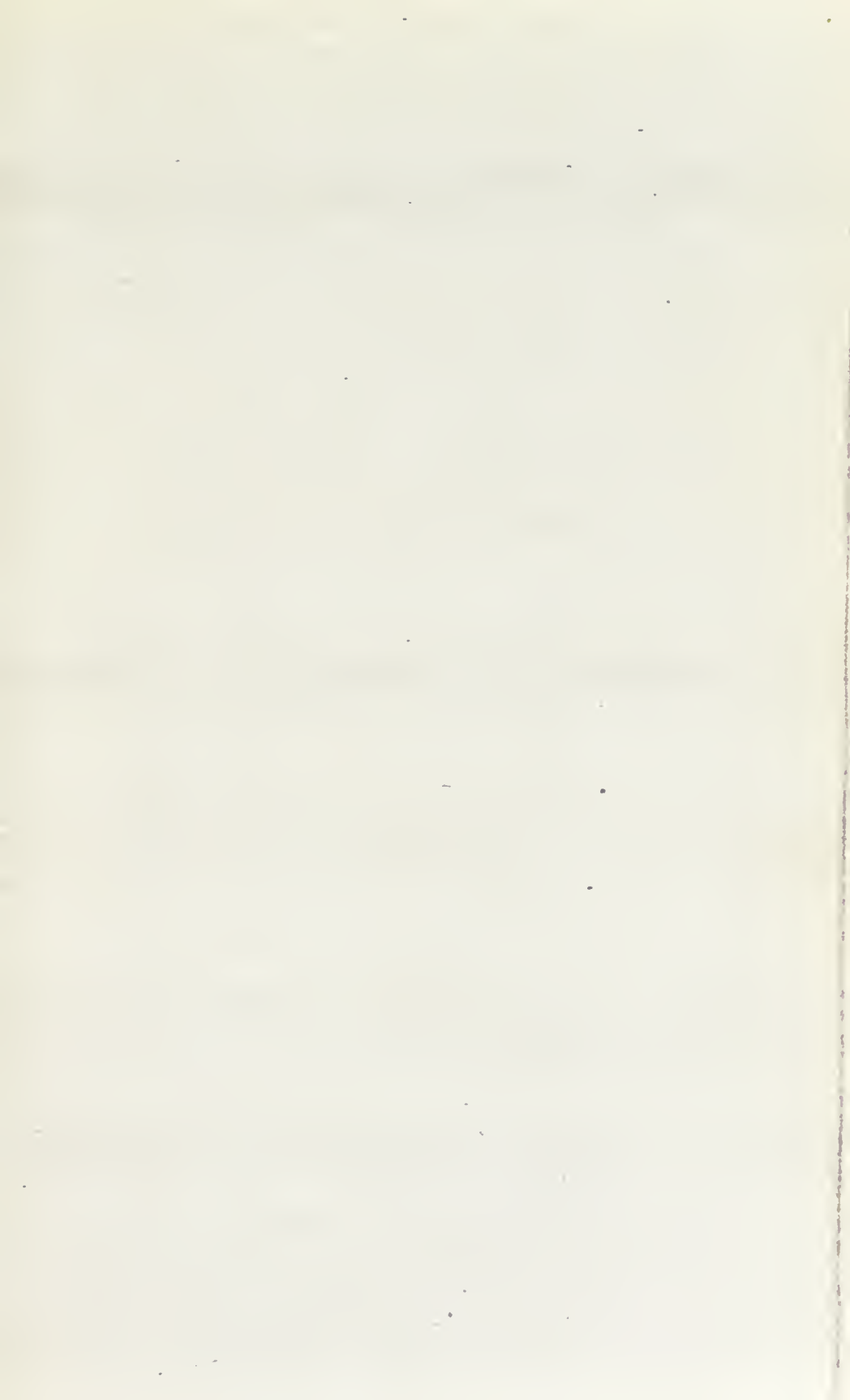
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REPORT.

Population.

THE Population of the County Landward for 1924 was 44,530. The figures for the Districts are :—

Districts.	1924.			1921	Acres.
	M.	F.	Total.	Census	
Thornhill	6,539	6,431	12,970	12,699	214,965
Dumfries	3,977	4,633	8,610	8,871	78,503
Annan	5,846	6,194	12,040	12,551	83,865
Lockerbie	3,862	4,210	8,072	8,409	170,859
Langholm	1,412	1,426	2,838	3,070	136,113
County L'ward	21,636	22,894	44,530	45,600	684,308

The Registrar-General's estimates amount to 44,447.

Births.

The Births intimated by Registrars were 990 (484 male, 506 female), a decrease of 82 on the number in the previous year, this being chiefly noticeable in Annan District. The rate per 1000 living was 22.232. The average rate for the previous ten years was 22.598. The figures for the Districts are :—

Districts.	M.	F.	Total.	Birth-rate per 1000 persons living.
Thornhill	170	167	337	25.983
Dumfries	89	88	177	20.557
Annan	118	131	249	20.681
Lockerbie	88	78	166	20.564
Langholm	19	42	61	21.494
County Landward	484	506	990	22.232

Of the 990 births, 877 were legitimate and 113 illegitimate. The proportion of legitimate births to married women living between the ages of 15 and 45 was 203 per 1000. The figures for each District are :—

Districts.	Estimated number of married women living between 15 and 45.	Number of legitimate births.	Rate per 1000 married women living between 15 and 45.
Thornhill	1281	315	245.90
Dumfries	804	148	184.08
Annan	1216	220	180.92
Lockerbie	753	142	188.58
Langholm	268	52	194.03
County L'ward	4322	877	202.88

The proportion of illegitimate births to unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 was 19.80 per 1000, and the proportion to total births 141 per 1000. The figures for the Districts are :—

Districts.	Estimated number of unmarried women and widows living between 15 and 45.	Number of illegitimate births.	Rates per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between 15 and 45.	Proportion of illegitimate to 1000 total births.
Thornhill	1524	22	14.43	65
Dumfries	1282	29	22.62	164
Annan	1495	29	19.40	116
Lockerbie	1056	24	24.62	145
Langholm	349	9	25.79	148
County Landward	5706	113	19.80	141

Deaths.

The number of Deaths intimated by Registrars, the transfers (in and out), and consequent adjustments were :—

Districts.	Registered Deaths.	Transfers in.	Transfers out.	Adjusted figures.		
				Total.	M.	F.
Thornhill	183	32	2	213	109	104
Dumfries	178	14	98	94	42	52
Annan	169	22	6	185	94	91
Lockerbie	114	10	15	109	53	56
Langholm	32	5	1	36	16	20
County L'ward	676	83	122	637	314	323

The Registrar-General's figures for the five Districts when summed up show a total of 669 registered deaths, 70 transfers in and 74 transfers out, leaving after adjustment a total of 665 for statistical purposes. As has been previously explained, the Registrar-General does not transfer deaths of usual residents in England or Ireland which may occur in Scotland, nor are deaths of Scottish residents which may occur outside of Scotland transferred in. This rather tends to vitiate the statistical results, and gives an erroneous impression of the death-rates, particularly in Dumfries District.

The death-rates, crude, corrected for transfers, and also for age and sex distribution in the five Districts are :—

District.	Crude death-rates.	Death-rates corrected for transfers.	Death-rates corrected also for age and sex distribution.	Rates according to Registrar-General.
Thornhill	14.109	16.422	15.015	15.5
Dumfries	20.673	10.917	9.611	14.9
Annan	14.036	15.365	14.145	13.0
Lockerbie	14.122	13.503	11.499	11.5
Langholm	11.275	12.685	10.975	10.4
County Landward	15.181	14.305	12.680	13.3

The corrected death-rate for the County Landward may therefore be stated at 12.680 per 1000. The average of this rate for the past ten years has been 12.428 per 1000.

The factors for the correction required by age and sex distribution are :—Thornhill District, .9143 ; Dumfries, .8803 ; Annan, .9206 ; Lockerbie, .8516 ; Langholm, .8652 ; County Landward, .8864.

The classification of deaths according to cause in each District, and the death-rates, corrected for transfers and for age and sex distribution, are given in the two tables following :—

DEATHS IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN 1924.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Thorn- hill.	Dum- fries.	Annan.	Lock- ergie.	Lang- holm	County L'wd.
Enteric Fever . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . . . .	...	1	...	2	...	3
Scarlet Fever . . . .	...	...	3	...	...	3
Whooping-cough . . .	1	...	2	1	...	4
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	12	1	8	6	1	26
Encephalitis Lethargica . .	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis . .	12	7	8	3	2	32
Tuberculous Meningitis . .	3	1	1	...	1	6
Abdominal Tuberculosis . .	1	...	...	2	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases .	2	1	3	...	...	6
Malignant Tumours . . .	22	10	20	14	3	69
Rheumatic Fever . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.)	1	1	2	2	...	6
Apoplexy	20	10	19	8	4	61
Heart Disease	25	6	29	15	4	79
Diseases of Arteries . . .	...	2	5	4	2	13
Bronchitis	11	6	5	2	1	25
Pneumonia (all forms) . .	15	5	12	9	...	41
Other Respiratory Diseases .	2	2	3	2	...	9
Enteritis (under 2 years) .	1	...	1	...	1	3
Appendicitis	3	...	1	...	...	4
Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	2	...	1	...	...	3
Nephritis (Bright's Disease) .	6	1	4	4	...	15
Puerperal Sepsis	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . . .	3	2	2	...	...	7
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations	15	7	12	5	2	41
Suicide	1	...	2	...	2	5
Violence (excluding Suicide) .	7	4	3	6	...	20
Other Defined Diseases . .	42	22	36	23	10	133
Ill-Defined Diseases . . .	4	5	2	1	3	15
TOTALS	213	94	185	109	36	637

DEATH-RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN 1924.

(CORRECTED FOR AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.)

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Thorn- hill.	Dum- fries.	Annan.	Lock- erbie.	Lang- holm.	County L'wd.
Enteric Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . .	...	102	...	211	...	060
Scarlet Fever . . .	...	...	229	...	...	060
Whooping-cough . . .	070	...	153	105	...	070
Diphtheria . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza . . .	846	102	612	633	305	556
Encephalitis Lethargica . . .	...	...	076	...	...	020
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis . . .	846	716	612	316	610	636
Tuberculous Meningitis . . .	212	102	076	...	305	117
Abdominal Tuberculosis . . .	070	...	...	211	...	000
Other Tuberculous Diseases . . .	141	102	229	...	...	113
Malignant Tumours . . .	1551	1022	1529	1476	914	1371
Rheumatic Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.) . . .	070	102	153	211	...	110
Apoplexy . . .	1410	1022	1453	844	1219	1212
Heart Disease . . .	1763	613	2217	1581	1219	1570
Diseases of Arteries . . .	...	204	382	422	610	258
Bronchitis . . .	776	613	382	211	305	449
Pneumonia (all forms) . . .	1058	511	918	940	...	814
Other Respiratory Diseases . . .	141	204	229	211	...	170
Enteritis (under 2 years) . . .	070	...	076	...	305	000
Appendicitis . . .	212	...	076	...	...	070
Liver Diseases (not Malignant) . . .	070	...	076	...	...	000
Nephritis (Bright's Disease) . . .	423	102	306	422	...	298
Puerperal Sepsis . . .	141	...	...	...	...	040
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . .	212	204	153	...	...	130
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations . . .	1058	715	918	527	610	815
Suicide . . .	070	...	153	...	610	000
Violence (excluding Suicide) . . .	494	409	229	633	...	397
Other Defined Diseases . . .	2061	2248	2752	2214	3048	2642
Ill-Defined Diseases . . .	282	511	153	105	914	298
TOTAL . . .	15015	9611	14145	11499	10974	12080

The Deaths in the five Districts (County Landward)
classified in age groups and according to cause were:—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	-1	1-	5-	10	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	All ages.
Enteric Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . .	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever . . .	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping-cough . . .	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza . . .	...	1	1	...	3	1	2	4	4	5	7	...	26
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis . .	...	...	...	...	9	5	8	6	3	1	...	...	32
Tuberculous Meningitis .	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
Abdominal Tuberculosis.	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	6
Malignant Tumours . .	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	8	23	18	13	4	69
Rheumatic Fever . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.)	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	6
Apoplexy . . .	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	14	22	18	3	61
Heart Disease . . .	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	5	14	29	25	1	79
Diseases of Arteries . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	6	...	13
Bronchitis . . .	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5	11	1	25
Pneumonia (all forms) .	12	6	...	1	4	1	3	1	2	6	5	...	41
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	2	...	9
Enteritis (under 2 years)	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Appendicitis . . .	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Nephritis (Bright's Disease)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4	5	...	15
Puerperal Sepsis . . .	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . .	...	...	...	...	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations . .	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Suicide . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	15
Violence (excluding Suicide)	2	...	...	2	3	...	3	1	4	3	1	1	20
Other Defined Diseases .	5	...	1	1	5	3	5	11	14	31	39	18	133
Ill-Defined Diseases . .	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	2	4	3	...	15
TOTAL . . .	73	15	9	8	33	22	35	17	92	139	136	28	637

The deaths of children under one year of age were 73 (40 male, 33 female). The rate per 1000 births was 73·74, the male rate being 82·64 and the female 65·22. The average of this mortality during the previous ten years has been 83·75.

The deaths from Zymotic causes were 10. The rate per 1000 persons living was 0.199, and the percentage to the total deaths 1.57. The causes contributing to it were Measles (3), Scarlet Fever (3), and Whooping-cough (4).

Influenza was returned as a cause of 28 deaths, equal to a rate of 0.556 per 1000 living. In six the Influenza appears to have been uncomplicated. In one there was Cerebral involvement; Pneumonia was present in thirteen; Pleurisy in one; Bronchitis in three; Gastritis in one; Acute Rheumatism in one; and in two the disease appeared after confinement.

Deaths due to Tuberculosis were 47, of which 32 were caused by the Pulmonary form of the disease. The respective death-rates were 0.934 and 0.636 per 1000. The averages for the previous ten years (1914-1923) have been 1.145 and 0.879.

Malignant Diseases caused 69 deaths. The death-rate per 1000 was 1.371, the average for 1914-1923 being 1.104.

Deaths from Apoplexy, Heart Disease, and Diseases of Arteries were 153, or four more than in the previous year. The death-rate per 1000 was 3.04. The total Respiratory death-rate was 1.492. Of Other Defined Diseases 62 were returned as due to Senile Decay or Old Age, 20 to diseases of the Nervous System, 13 to diseases of the Digestive System, 10 to Pernicious Anæmia, 4 to Diabetes, and the remainder to other causes.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases received from the County Landward during 1924 was four hundred and thirty-two. Of these, 269 were notified under the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, and 163 in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. They comprised:—

(1) Notified under the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 :—

Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	127
Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Puerperal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

(2) Notified in terms of Regulations made under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, Section 78 :—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Malaria	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	71
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	49

The proportion of cases notified to 1000 persons living was 9·7.

The notifications received each month were :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Scarlet Fever	5	3	2	13	3	17	23	7	6	16	9	17	121
Diphtheria	22	18	8	4	10	13	4	6	14	9	6	13	127
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	2	.....	2	.....	3	1	1	4	17
Puerperal Fever	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	5
Malaria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Acute Primary													
Pneumonia	4	3	4	1	4	1	1	.....	.....	2	3	2	25
Acute Influenzal													
Pneumonia	.....	3	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	12
Pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	6	6	5	10	7	8	4	4	2	8	9	2	71
Non-pulmonary													
Tuberculosis	1	7	7	5	4	2	7	2	1	5	7	1	49
Totals	39	43	30	35	31	43	42	21	26	41	36	45	432

The Age-incidence is shown in the following summary of the returns for the five Districts made to the Board of Health :—

	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upward.
Enteric Fever	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	..	.....
Scarlet Fever	121	.....	32	66	13	9	-1	.....
Diphtheria	127	.....	35	60	20	11	1	.....
Erysipelas	17	.....	.....	..	3	6	8	.....
Puerperal Fever	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
Ophthalmia								
Neonatorum	5	5	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Malaria	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Acute Primary								
Pneumonia	25	5	3	5	5	4	1	2
Acute Influenzal								
Pneumonia	12	.....	.....	4	2	3	1	2
Tuberculosis—								
Pulmonary	71	.....	.....	8	24	28	11	..
Non-pulmonary	49	.....	9	17	11	9	2	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	432	10	79	160	78	75	25	5

The notifications from each District were :—

	Thornhill.	Dumfries.	Annan.	Lockerbie.	Langhorne.	Totals.
Enteric Fever .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Scarlet Fever	24	27	51	18	1	121
Diphtheria	32	16	62	17	..	127
Erysipelas	3	8	3	3	.....	17
Puerperal Fever	2	1	.....	.....	.....	3
Ophthalmia						
Neonatorum	1	2	1	1	.....	5
Malaria	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Acute Primary						
Pneumonia	12	..	4	9	.....	25
Acute Influenzal						
Pneumonia	4	.....	8	.....	.....	12
Tuberculosis—						
Pulmonary	31	15	14	5	6	71
Non-pulmonary	27	7	10	5	.....	49
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	137	77	153	58	7	432

No case of **Smallpox** was reported. The County has been free of this disease for a period of twenty years. A mild form has, however, been spreading in various parts of Britain lately, and it is not by any means certain that this immunity in the county will continue.

One hundred and sixty-five intimations of Objection to Vaccination were reported by Registrars—84 in Thornhill District, 33 in Dumfries, 33 in Annan, and 15 in Lockerbie. Of the 84 in Thornhill, 63 were from Kirkconnel.

One case of **Enteric Fever** was notified from a farmhouse in Tinwald. A blood-test was negative to Typhoid and Paratyphoid A, but positive to Paratyphoid B. The source of infection was probably some article of diet, but as the early symptoms were obscure and this case the only one in the District, it could not be definitely determined. The patient was removed to Hospital, where he made a good recovery.

Scarlet Fever was intimated from twenty-eight parishes, ten in the first quarter of the year, thirty-three in the second, thirty-six in the third, and forty-two in the fourth. The parishes of Kirkmahoe and Cummertrees gave thirteen each; Annan Landward and Gretna, eleven each; Dumfries Landward and Dornock, ten each; Kirkconnel, nine; Closeburn, seven; Kirkpatrick-Fleming and Hutton, four each; Morton, Kirkpatrick-Juxta, and St. Mungo, three each; Glencairn, Caerlaverock, Kirkmichael, Lochmaben Landward, and Wamphray, two each; Tynron, Dunscore, Sanquhar Landward, Middlebie, Ruthwell, Applegarth, Dryfesdale, Johnstone, Tundergarth, and Langholm Landward, one each. Ninety-one families were affected, seventy-two to the extent of one case in each, thirteen with two in each, two with three, three with four, and one with five. One hundred and ten cases were removed to Hospitals—nineteen to Thornhill, forty-two to Lochmaben, forty-six to Annan, one to Eskdale, and two (by request) to Newton-Stewart and Carlisle, their usual residences.

The number of cases and deaths, the sickness and mortality-rates, and the case fatality from this disease during the past five years in the County Landward were :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Cases	74	108	139	72	121
Deaths	0	1	1	0	3
Sickness-rate per 1000	1.69	2.37	2.8	1.63	2.72
Mortality-rate per 1000	nil.	.02	.02	nil.	.06
Case-fatality-rate per 1000	nil.	9.26	7.2	nil.	24.79

The notifications of Diphtheria were one hundred and twenty-seven, and were received from twenty-two parishes. Gretna furnishing thirty : Kirkconnel, nineteen : Dornock and Lochmaben Landward, twelve each ; Morton and Kirkpatrick-Fleming, eight each ; Dumfries Landward, six ; Torthorwald, five ; Closeburn, Annan Landward, Cummertrees, Ruthwell, and Heddou, three each : Kirkmichael, Tinwald, and Dalton, two each ; and Durisdeer, Dunscore, Kirkmahoe, Middlebie, Dryfesdale, and St. Mungo, one each. Ninety-nine families were affected, eighty-one having one case in each, twelve having two, four having three, one four, and one six. The greater prevalence of the disease was in the first quarter, forty cases having been notified in January and February.

One hundred and three of the cases gave positive swabs showing Diphtheria Bacilli definitely present. One hundred and twenty cases were removed to Hospitals—twenty-nine to Thornhill, thirty-six to Lochmaben, and fifty-five to Annan. None of the attacks proved fatal. The number of cases notified, of deaths, and of various rates during the past five years have been :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Cases	49	57	99	66	127
Deaths	5	4	3	1	0
Sickness-rate per 1000	1.118	1.251	1.995	1.497	2.852
Mortality-rate per 1000	.114	.078	.060	.020	nil.
Case-fatality per 1000	102.04	70.175	30.303	15.151	nil.

Seventeen cases of Erysipelas were intimated. There were no fatalities.

Three cases of Puerperal Fever occurred, two of which proved fatal.

There were five intimations of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case was admitted to Lochmaben Hospital. The others were treated at home by the respective doctors.

Twenty-five cases of Primary Pneumonia and twelve cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. It is a moot point whether these cases benefit by removal to hospital in rural areas. Sometimes, however, removal is absolutely necessary because of the conditions in which the patient may be living. One case in Upper Nithsdale was removed from a stable loft to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. The illness ended fatally. The Hospitals for Infectious Diseases are not equipped for dealing with these cases.

The reports on Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases will be found in the Appendix.

Hospitals.

One case of Enteric Fever (Paratyphosus B), one hundred and eight cases of Scarlet Fever, one hundred and twenty of Diphtheria, one of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and one of Puerperal Fever were removed to Hospitals from Districts; one of Enteric Fever (Paratyphosus B), forty-six of Scarlet Fever, and twenty-two of Diphtheria from Burghs.

The admissions to each Hospital were :—

		Enteric.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph. Throat.	O.N.
Thornhill	Thornhill District	...	19	29	...
	Sanguhar Burgh	....	1	....	...
Lochmaben	Dumfries District	1	27	13	1
	Lockerbie District	....	14	17	....
	Lochmaben Burgh	...	....	5	....
	Lockerbie Burgh	...	1	11	....
	Moffat Burgh	....	9	1	....
Annan	Annan District	....	2	6	....
	Annan District	..	45	54	....
	Annan Burgh	....	1	32	5
Eskdale	Dumfries District	....	....	1	....
	Langholm District	....	1	....	....
	Langholm Burgh	....	3	....	....

One case of Scarlet Fever was sent to Newton-Stewart Hospital at the request of the parents and consent of the Authority; one case of Scarlet Fever from the Ministry of Pensions Hospital at Gretna to Carlisle; four cases of Measles to Lochmaben, and five of Tuberculosis to the same Hospital prior to the opening of the Sanatorium. The case of Puerperal Fever was sent by the medical attendant to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

Housing.

An enumeration by the police of occupied houses in the spring of 1924 showed that these were 10,341, being an increase of 83 on the number found at the Census of 1921. Increases were found in Thornhill (113), Lockerbie (4), and Langholm Districts (9); decreases in Dumfries (12) and Annan (31). The increases appear to be due partly to building, and also to re-occupation of empty houses.

At Kelloholm, Kirkeconnel, there are now 71 occupied houses. In the village of Kirkeconnel 21 one-roomed houses are still in occupation, 6 of which were occupied by three persons in each, 5 by four, one by five, and 4 by six in each.

Of two-roomed houses, 41 were occupied by seven persons in each, 23 by eight, 12 by ten, 12 by eleven, 2 by twelve, 5 by thirteen, and one by sixteen.

Of three-roomed houses, 10 were occupied by ten in each, 2 by eleven, 5 by twelve, 2 by thirteen in each, one by fourteen, and one by seventeen.

These figures are not a great improvement on those for 1923.

The complaints of defective housing conditions were :—

	Houses damp or out of repair	Defective water supplies	Defective fittings and drains	Defective privy accommoda- tion	Offensive ash- pits or refuse accumulations	Totals
Thornhill District	6	1	5	1	2	15
Dumfries District ..	5	6	.....	.....	1	12
Annan District ..	8	3	9	..	5	25
Lockerbie District ...	1	1	3	.....	5	10
Langholm District ..	—	4	.....	.....	.....	4
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	15	17	1	13	66

The letters and intimations under the provisions of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, Section 19, were :—

	Houses damp or out of repair	Defective water supplies	Defective fittings and drains	Defective privy accommoda- tion	Offensive ash-pits or refuse accumu- lations	Totals
Thornhill District ..	28	5	12	.....	8	53
Dumfries District ..	24	7	13	4	7	55
Annan District ..	30	.....	23	3	13	69
Lockerbie District	9	3	4	.....	3	19
Langholm District	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	91	16	52	7	31	197

Plans were submitted for the erection of 129 new houses, 100 being at the new site on Kelloholm, Kirkeconnel, and nine at Hecklegirth. Four of the latter have been

completed. At the former there are now, including the houses previously erected, 71 in occupation. Plans were also submitted for the erection of four huts, and for the conversion of nine premises at Gretna into dwelling-houses. Intimations, accompanied by plans in 34 instances, were made of alterations or additions to 38 houses. The code of regulations for buildings is defective, and a considerable improvement would be effected if bye-laws were made under Section 43 (2) of the Housing, &c. (Scotland) Act, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspectors paid 1023 visits under the Housing Acts, and supervised 165 smoke-tests of drains. Closing Orders were issued in seven cases. Six houses were afterwards made fit for habitation. In 40 houses defects were remedied after intimations were sent.

Water Supplies.

The samples taken each quarter from fifteen public supplies for chemical and bacteriological examinations gave satisfactory results. In three (Dumfries Landward, Glencaple, and Lower Annandale) there was a small proportion of vegetable matter, accounting for a somewhat high albuminoid ammonia figure in each. Matters in suspension were found once in Kirkconnel, Penpont, Moniaive, Dumfries Landward, Ecclefechan, Bankhill, and Rowanburn; twice in Crawick, Lower Annandale, and Eaglesfield; thrice in Thornhill, Glencaple, Rockhall, and Ruthwell and Raffles. Blackshaw was the only one where samples were entirely free. It was also the only supply which showed absence of *coliform bacilli* in all four samples. The samples taken during the first quarter generally showed a marked absence of these organisms. In thirteen they were not found at all, and in two (Crawick and Thornhill) were not found in smaller quantities of the water than 100 c.c. The contrast with the third quarter was striking. Only one sample (Blackshaw) appeared to be entirely free from them. In the samples from Penpont, Dumfries

Landward, Lower Annandale, and Bankshill they were found in quantities of 100 c.c. of the water, but not in smaller amounts. In Crawick, Glencaple, Ruthwell and Raffles, and Eaglesfield they were found in 10 c.c., and in Kirkconnel, Thornhill, Moniaive, Rockhall, Ecelefechan, and Rowanburn in quantities of 1 c.c. There was an improvement in the fourth quarter, but not to the extent shown by samples taken during the first.

Fifty-one samples of the supply from Esk to the Gretna and Eastriggs Townships were examined. These consisted of the raw untreated water, the chemically treated taken before filtration, and the chemically treated after filtration. The results showed that the purification, though expensive, was effective. The last samples were taken on November 11th, after which the gravitation supply from Winterhopehead became available and pumping of Esk water, with its necessary purification ceased.

Thirty-one samples from private supplies were examined, both chemically and bacteriologically. The results were intimated to parties responsible, and advice given, or action taken, as the circumstances required.

Correspondence took place with the Board of Agriculture regarding the water supply to the Sark Tower Small Holdings, and, after negotiations, defects were remedied and the supply made satisfactory.

Disposal of Sewage and Pollution of Streams.

During the month of September the river Nith was surveyed from its rise in Ayrshire to its fall into the Solway by an officer from the Board of Health. In Dumfriesshire he was accompanied by a member of the Public Health Staff, and attention was directed to the pollution caused by coal-washing and to various sewage effluents.

At Kirkconnel the sewage works appeared to be in good working order, but the additions to population and houses are such as to require watchfulness that the capacity

of these works is not overstrained. At Gateside Colliery leakage was found in the banks of the settling pond below the coal-washer, and black liquid was finding its way through to the river. Crude sewage is still being discharged from the Lochans and other parts to the north in the Burgh of Sanquhar. At the works at the southern end of the Burgh the distributors over the continuous filter were not acting and tank liquor was passing direct to the river. The installation at the Creamery was found to have had a brick removed from the tank, evidently to facilitate the cleansing by discharge of the semi-solid contents to the river. The attention of the Creamery Company was drawn to this, and a promise of amendment was received from the Secretary. Wanlock water, which flows into the Crawick, was inspected, but no evidence of sewage pollution was seen below the village. The Inspector noted, however, that if water-closets became general throughout the village (and there has been a tendency to put them in of late) means of purification would be necessary.

On the Carron the Inspector took note of a somewhat crude arrangement at the school at Carronbridge, where water from a mill lade is diverted to a channel under the seat of the latrine to wash out faecal matter through a pipe discharging on to the bank of the stream. He suggested that either the pipe should be extended into the stream, or that the system should be scrapped and a more modern system introduced, with tank to digest solid matters for discharge into the Carron.

A good deal of work has been done at the Thornhill Sewage Works during the year, but it has not yet been effective either in the way of improving the effluent or removing the offensive smell which has been the cause of considerable complaint. These works were installed about twenty years ago, and at first worked well. But after a time it was found that the flow of sewage was much greater than had been provided for, and that there was difficulty in getting the septic tank cleaned. This latter

was probably due to the very optimistic views which were held as to the digestion of organic matters in the tank. Messrs D. Balfour & Son, of Newcastle and Edinburgh, were called in to advise in 1911, and recommended among other things certain alterations on the sewerage and at the works, more particularly the construction of screening and detritus chambers to interrupt gritty matters, the covering of the tanks, fixing of sludge valves, formation of sludge pipes, and construction of two continuous circular filters with revolving sprinklers to distribute the tank effluent over them. This report was discussed but nothing further done, and during the war the works were almost entirely neglected. In 1923 Mr Easton, C.E., was called in and asked to recommend palliative treatment which it was hoped might effect some improvement until costs should be lowered and a suitable scheme be carried out. He gave instructions as to the cleaning out of the tanks, but pointed out that this would entail steady attention and labour, and probably under normal conditions the whole time of one man. Sludge pits have been constructed to take the tank sludge until it could be got rid of, and it was hoped this might be effected by farmers taking it for manurial purposes. Up to the present this hope has not been fulfilled, and the palliative treatment has not yet been a success either in the way of improving the effluent or lessening the odours complained of.

Below Thornhill there is no centre of pollution till one comes to the Arrol-Johnston Works and houses at Heathhall. The purification works here are satisfactory.

The discharges below this are largely into the tidal portion of the river.

As regards the River Annan, matters are very much as described in previous reports. There is practically no industrial pollution, and the sewage effluents from Moffat and Lockerbie sewage works are discharged into tributaries in which additional purification takes place before the river itself is reached. The sewage of the Burgh of Annan is mostly discharged into the tidal estuary.

On the Esk the works for tank treatment are completed and in operation. The river has kept a fairly high level, there having been no drought, and up to the present there has been satisfactory dilution of the tank effluent.

The sewage of Rowanburn is discharged crude into a tributary of the Liddel as previously described.

The village of Moniaive is a Special Drainage District without a drainage scheme. The result is that a number of cesspools, some of them without overflows, have been constructed. At one point the contents are pumped on to the garden ground, giving rise to complaints of offensive smell. If the introduction of water-closets continues a drainage scheme would appear to be a necessity.

Cleansing and Scavenging.

There are now six Special Scavenging Districts—Kirkconnel, Thornhill, Greta Township, Eastriggs Township, Ecclefechan, and Rowanburn. The Townships were previously scavenged under the supervision of the War Office and Disposals Board, but are now handed over to the administration of Annan District Committee. Contracts have been entered into for the cleaning of the two areas, and a permanent official appointed to look after the sewers and supervise the cleaning. This work has been satisfactorily carried out. The other Special Districts are also kept in a satisfactory way, but complaints are made of the operation of rats in the neighbourhood of the Thornhill Dump, and of the state of the Hags at Ecclefechan as a result of tinkers or hawkers camping there.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are now 425 dairy premises on the Register. The number in each District, the inspections, and the letters written regarding defects are shown in the following table :—

Districts.	No. of Dairies.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Letters issued.
Thornhill	109	145	19
Dumfries	108	132	21
Annan	86	87	8
Lockerbie	108	106	5
Langholm	14	11	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	425	481	53

Three licences to sell Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk have been granted to the farmers in Barr (Sanquhar), Kinmount (Annan), and Douglas Hall (Lockerbie). The animals in these herds were subjected to the Tuberculin Test by the County Veterinary Inspector, and samples of milk examined in the County Laboratories. The requirements of the Grade were satisfied in each case.

A licence to sell pasteurised milk was granted to the Lockerbie Creamery.

Slaughter-Houses.

The number of Licensed Slaughter-houses remains as before, viz.:—Kirkconnel (1), Thornhill (2), Thornhill Station (1), Moniaive (1), Dunscore (1), Racks (1), Dornocktown (1), Kirkpatrick-Fleming (1), Templeland (1), and Lymiceleugh (1).

Eighty visits of inspection were paid to them—49 in Thornhill District, 14 in Dumfries, 9 in Annan, 6 in Lockerbie, and 2 in Langholm. Five letters were issued regarding defects. The Veterinary Inspector reports examination of 51 animals, one of which was condemned under the provisions of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, Section 43.

One instance of unlicensed slaughtering was discovered, the carcase and offal of a pig being found in premises devoted to the manufacture of sausages; but as these premises were vacated almost immediately after, further proceedings were not taken.

•Offensive Trades.

No change. The premises sanctioned and licensed are as before :—

- (1) A Bone-boiling business at Thornhill.
- (2) A Knackery at Mossbank.
- (3) A Manure Manufactory at Mossbank.
- (4) A Tallow-melting Factory at Racks.

Factories and Workshops.

Twenty-five visits were paid to these. Nothing was found calling for comment except at a recently established bakehouse, where part of a dwelling-house was being utilised. As there was direct access to the bakehouse from the dwelling we gave instructions that the door between should be permanently blocked up. This was at once carried out. Only one intimation was received from the Factory Inspector, and it was a notice of occupation of the foregoing bakehouse. The names of two Outworkers were received.

BURGH OF ANNAN.

Area, 383 acres.

Population.—The Census (1921) population was 3928 (male 1817, female 2111). The estimated population for 1924 was 3958 (1827 male, 2131 female).

Births.—The number registered in the Burgh during the year was 67 (36 male, 31 female). The rate per 1000 living was 16·927. This is not quite the lowest birth-rate of recent years, as it was 16·675 in 1918. In 1923 the rate was 20·347; in 1922, 17·498; and in 1921, 24·658. The averages of the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	29·692
1901-1910	28·947
1911-1920	21·543

Eleven births, or 16·4 per cent., were illegitimate. The rate per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 547) was 20·11.

The legitimate birth-rate per 1000 married women living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 416) was 135·6.

Deaths.—The number registered was 48. Nine deaths of usual residents which occurred elsewhere require to be added, making a total of 57, of which 29 were male and 28 female. The death-rate on the registered figures only was 12·127; on the figures after the addition of transfers 14·401, which the correction for age and sex distribution (factor ·9028) reduces to 13·001. The corrected death-rate for 1923 was 12·320; for 1922, 15·881; and for 1921.

12-255. The average rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900 .	20-903
1901-1910 ..	14-946
1911-1920	15-456

The deaths from various causes are shown in age-groups in the following table :—

BURGH OF ANNAN.—DEATHS IN 1921.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	Rate per 100.
Enteric Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Whooping-cough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	1.11
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	6.4
Tuberculous Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant Tumours	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	3	1	...	2.21
Rheumatic Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	9.12
Heart Disease	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	9.12
Diseases of Arteries	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	4.56
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4.56
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	6.84
Other Respiratory Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (under 2 years)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.25
Appendicitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver Diseases (not Malignant) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis (Bright's Disease)	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	9.12
Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.84
Suicide . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violence (excluding Suicide)	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4.56
Other Defined Diseases	11	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	3	1	2.510
Ill-Defined Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	57	6	4	...	...	1	2	2	4	11	17	9	1	13.001

The diseases causing the chief mortality during the year have been the Malignant and Influenzal groups. Heart, Artery, and Kidney Diseases have been less fatal than in 1923. The Zymotic and Tuberculous death-rates are again low.

There were six deaths under one year of age, a percentage of 10·5 to the whole. Two occurred in the first week of life, two in the fourth month, and two in the seventh. The causes of death were Gastro-Enteritis (1), Congenital Debility (1), Premature Birth (2) Shock from Burns (1), and Convulsions (1). The infantile mortality-rate (calculated per 1000 births) was 89. In 1923 it was 49; in 1922, 72; in 1921, 112. The average for the previous ten years (1911-20) was 85, for the twenty years (1891-1910) it was 123.

Infectious Diseases.—One case of Enteric Fever was notified in December. The patient was a young man working in the Burgh, but the cause of the attack could not be ascertained. So far as known this was the only case at this time in the Burgh or District. There was one case in 1922, three in 1921 in one family, none between 1921 and 1909, when one case occurred where the infection was known to have been acquired outwith the Burgh. The diagnosis of Enteric Fever was confirmed by a positive Widal reaction.

Thirty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were intimated. Twenty-eight families were affected, there being one case in each of twenty-five, two cases in each of two, and three cases in one family. The distribution in time is interesting:—January three, February one, March five, April four, May ten, June two, August three, September three, December one. The numbers in May were augmented by a milk outbreak. The first cases were notified on 1st May, and on the following day were traced to a milk distributor. Nothing suspicious was observed at the farm, but a case of Scarlet Fever was found in the family of the distributor and there was also a history of a previously unrecognised case. The distributor was taken off and the outbreak ceased. Eight cases were connected with the consumption of this milk. Some of the cases were complicated by the presence

of Diphtheria Bacilli, swabs from five proving positive. There were in all three fatalities—one in April, two in May.

There were five cases of Diphtheria. All were removed to Hospital. There were no fatalities.

The notifications of Tuberculosis were five. Three suffered from Pulmonary Disease and two from Non-pulmonary. Four (including one case notified in the previous year) were given Sanatorium treatment and two were sent to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

There were no cases of Smallpox. The Registrar intimated that he had received thirty-four Objections to Vaccination.

The figures in the following table are abstracted from the return made to the Board of Health :—

BURGH OF ARMAN.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
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A.—UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Enteric Fever	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	22	10	17	3	2	...	32	...
Diphtheria	...	5	1	2	2	...	...	5	...
Erysipelas	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	2

B.—IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1	1	1	...	3
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	...	1	1

TOTAL OF A AND B...	45	...	12	20	7	4	1	1	43
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Housing.—At the enumeration in April, 1924, the number of occupied houses was 987. Of these, 33 were returned as one-roomed houses, and 220 as two-roomed. The population in the one-roomed houses was 91. Nine were occupied by one inmate each, seven by two, the same number by three, four by four, five by five, and one by six inmates. The two-roomed houses had a population of 808. Thirteen such houses had seven inmates each, two had eight, three had nine, and one ten. Over 190 persons were therefore living under conditions more or less of overcrowding.

A special report was made on twenty houses—five in Lady Street, six in Back Lady Street, six in Hay's Place, two in Wilkins' Wynd, and one in High Street. Practically all of these were found to be affected by damp and insufficient ventilation to such an extent as to be in their present condition unfit for habitation. The damp has been largely caused by defects in rhones and conductors, aggravated by want of damp-proof courses. In several of the houses there was no through ventilation, and windows were not always made to open to the extent desirable. The houses in Hay's Place are examples of "back to back" houses, their being only a space of 15 inches between them and an adjoining property. This space is not properly drained. The houses are in consequence very damp, and there is no through ventilation. Some improvement might be effected by the provision of proper rhones and downpipes, but the structural fault is such that it is highly improbable that these houses could ever be brought up to the standard of modern housing ideals.

Water Supply.—Complaints of shortage in certain parts of the town have again been made. As the pipes have been in for over forty years, it is highly probable that incrustation has occurred in some of them to such an extent as to reduce the pressure, which would show itself in shortage at any time when there is a considerable draw off. The reservoir, filters, and clear water tank have been kept in good condition.

Sewerage.—Complaints of odours from certain of the manholes led to an inspection and recommendations with regard to flushing. Since these were agreed to, no further complaints have been made to me. Otherwise the sewers have worked satisfactorily, and no complaints have been received regarding the outfalls.

Nuisances.—No certificate has been required from me. Thirty-four intimations have been made by the Sanitary Inspector. These have all been attended to, and the issue of notices under Section 20 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, have not been required.

Slaughter-house.—This is kept in a satisfactory state. The animals killed during the year were 570 bovines, 1283 sheep, 579 pigs, and 204 calves.

Unsound Food.—Nine seizures, including 6 bovine carcasses (3738 lbs.), 2 calves (308 lbs.), and 1 sheep (28 lbs.) were made, and after certification that they were diseased and unfit for the food of man were destroyed.

The Fellmonger's Business continues to be conducted without offence, the premises being kept in a satisfactory state, and no complaints have been received.

Dairies.—There are two cowsheds or byres, in which five cattle are housed, and two milkshops in the Burgh. Six purveyors sell milk from vans. The cowsheds and milkshops have been found in a satisfactory state when visited. The vans are from dairies in the district around Annan. No contraventions of the Dairies' Order have required to be dealt with.

The number of Workshops on the Register is as before (72). They have been frequently and regularly inspected—the Sanitary Inspector having made 321 visits—and found in a satisfactory state, clean and well ventilated.

BURGH OF SANQUHAR.

Area, 349 acres.

Population.—At the Thirteenth Decennial Census in 1921 this was 1700 (male 851, female 849). The police enumeration in 1924 showed an increase to 2054, of whom 1034 were male and 1020 female.

Births.—The births registered in the Burgh were 44 (18 male, 26 female). The rate per 1000 persons living was 21·422. The rate for the previous year was 24·727; for 1922 it was 23·194; and for 1921, 22·353. The average rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	26·760
1901-1910	25·030
1911-1920	24·919

Two births, or 4·5 per cent., were illegitimate. The rate per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 214) was 9·34. The legitimate birth-rate per 1000 married women living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 206) was 203·88.

Deaths.—The number registered was 20. Two deaths of usual residents which occurred elsewhere require to be added, making the total 22, of which 11 were male and 11 female. The table below shows the deaths classified as to cause and in age groups. The crude death-rate was 9·737 per 1000. After addition of transfers it was 10·712, and when the factor (·9730) of correction for age and sex distribution was applied it became 10·423. The corrected rate for 1923 was 8·661; for 1922, 16·449; and for 1921, 16·659. The average rates for the three previous decades have been :—

1891-1900	17·018
1901-1910	18·188
1911-1920	14·703

BURGH OF SANQUHAR.—DEATHS IN 1921.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	Notes
Bacterial Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.47
Measles . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	0.47
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral Tuberculosis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant Tumours	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	0.47
Septicæmic Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1.421
Heart Disease	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	0.47
Diseases of Arteries . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Endocarditis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.47
Pneumonia all forms	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	0.47
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	0.47
Enteritis (under 2 years) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases (not Malignant) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis (Bright's Disease) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Septicæmic Sepsis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases and Accidents . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Of Pregnancy, &c.	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.47
Diseases of Early Infancy and . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malformations	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.825
Suicide . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violence (excluding Suicide) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	0.47
Undefined Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	22	5	2	...	...	1	...	...	3	4	4	3	...	10.423

The Zymotic mortality was 0.917 per 1000, due to two deaths from Measles; the total Tuberculous mortality was nil; that from Malignant Disease, 0.474; from Apoplexy and Heart Disease together, 2.368; from Respiratory Diseases, 2.842.

Deaths of children under one year of age were five. Three occurred in the first week of life, one in the fifth week, and one in the twelfth month. The causes were returned as Debility (3), Premature Birth (1), and Broncho-pneumonia (1). The infantile mortality-rate (calculated per 1000 births) was 114. The rate for 1923 was 60; for 1922, 114; that for 1921, 79. The average of this rate for the ten years (1911-20) was 88; for the twenty years (1891-1910), 106.

Infectious Diseases.—The notifications received were 20, and included one case of Scarlet Fever, one of Erysipelas, two of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, eleven of Pneumonia, and five of Tuberculosis.

The case of Scarlet Fever was admitted to Thornhill Hospital.

The cases of Erysipelas and Ophthalmia Neonatorum made good recoveries. One of the latter was a transfer from Glasgow. Both infants were attended by the District Nurse and Health Visitor, who carried out the instructions of the local medical practitioners.

Of the five cases of Tuberculosis, two suffered from Pulmonary Disease, two from Glandular, and one from Lupus. One patient was sent to Lochmaben Sanatorium, and three to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

There were no cases of Smallpox. The Registrar intimated that he had received fifteen Objections to Vaccination.

The following table showing the cases arranged in age-groups is summarised from the return to the Board of Health:—

BURGH OF SANQUHAR.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1

A.—UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	10	1	3	2	...	2	2	...	...	10
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

B.—IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Tuberculosis—										
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1
Non-pulmonary	...	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	...

TOTAL OF A AND B... 20 3 4 1 1 5 3 3 ... 15

Housing.—At the enumeration in April, 1924, the number of occupied houses was 408. The population being 2054, this represents an average of over 5 persons per house. Twenty-two of the houses were one-roomed, and had a population of 69. Four were found to have one inmate each, three had two, six had three, six four, two five, and one seven.

Of 196 two-roomed houses there were twenty-three with seven inmates each, eleven with eight, four with nine, three with ten, and one with eleven.

The number living under more or less overcrowded conditions was 367, equal to 36 per cent. of the total number living in one and two-roomed houses, or nearly 18 per cent. of the total population.

Three plans—two for additions and one for new school building—were examined and reported on to the Local Authority. Nineteen visits for house inspection were made, and the Sanitary Inspectors attended at five smoke-testings of drains.

The Lodging-house has been inspected and found in good order and satisfactorily kept.

Water Supply.—No complaints have been received. The results of analyses (the chemical results stated as grains per gallon) made during the year have been :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Total Solids	4.98	4.05	4.59	4.62
Saline Solids	4.54	3.63	4.03	4.13
Volatile Matter	.44	.42	.56	.49
Chlorides	.73	.67	.66	.67
Nitrates ($N_2 O_2$)	.109	.095	trace	trace
Nitrites	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Free Ammonia	.001	.0012	.00079	.00074
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0036	.0037	.0043	.0042
B. Coli	+100 c.c.	+10 c.c.	+10 c.c.	+10 c.c.
	- 10 c.c.	- 1 c.c.	- 1 c.c.	- 1 c.c.

Sewerage.—No further progress has been made with proposals for dealing with the sewage of the north-west of the Burgh (Lochans, Queensberry Square, &c.), which is still discharged into the river in a crude state. Conditions here are aggravated from time to time by neglect to attend properly to the installation at the Creamery, the tank effluent being allowed to overflow the filters, while cleaning has been done by letting sludge direct into the river.

At the south-east the purification works have discharged an effluent that has not given rise to complaint, but the fixed wooden distributors have shown signs of warping for some time, with the result that some parts of the filter are thrown out of use and the effluent is likely to suffer.

Slaughter-house.—The premises are generally kept in good order. No complaints have been received. Eleven inspections were made. No carcase has been found requiring seizure, but it has been quite impossible to arrange that a Meat Inspector should be present at slaughterings.

Dairies.—With the exception of its sewage purification works the Creamery has been found in good order when inspected. The other dairies registered in the Burgh are two. These have been visited from time to time. The attention of one was drawn to the undesirability of keeping other than dairy cows in the dairy byre, and of the other to the desirability of improved ventilation in the milkhouse. Otherwise both were well kept.

Workshops.—No contravention of the Factory and Workshops Acts has been discovered or brought to our notice. No intimations have been made by the Factory Inspector, and no lists of Outworkers have been received.

BURGH OF LOCKERBIE.

Area, 453 acres.

Population.—At the Thirteenth Decennial Census in 1921 this was 2344 (male 1041, female 1303). The enumeration of 1924 showed that there were 1074 males and 1322 females, a total of 2396.

Births.—The births registered in the Burgh were 37 (21 male, 16 female). The rate per 1000 living was 15·442. The rate for the previous year was 18·773 : for 1922 it was 19·116, and for 1921, 22·184. The average rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	26·706
1901-1910	21·299
1911-1920	20·401

One illegitimate birth was recorded. This is equivalent to 2·7 per cent. of the total births. The rate per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 360) was 2·8.

The legitimate birth-rate per 1000 married women living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 232) was 155·17.

Deaths.—The number registered was 38. The deaths of seven usual residents which occurred elsewhere require to be added and the death of one non-resident to be deducted, giving a total of 44 for statistical purposes, of which 23 were male and 21 female. The table below shows the deaths classified as to cause and in age-groups. The crude death-rate was 15·859. Corrected for transfers it was 18·364, and further corrected for age and sex distribution (factor ·9393) 17·249. The corrected rate for the previous year was 12·945 ; for 1922, 11·706, and for 1921 11·765. The average rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	15·009
1901-1910	14·444
1911-1920	14·889

BURGH OF LOCKERBIE.—DEATHS IN 1924.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	Rate per 1000
Bacterial Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Crouping-cough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1.176
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	.784
Tuberculous Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	.392
Malignant Tumours	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1.565
Rheumatic Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.)	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.784
Apoplexy	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	.784
Heart Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	1.960
Diseases of Arteries	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	.392
Bronchitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1.176
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	.392
Enteritis (under 2 years) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	.784
Nephritis (Bright's Disease)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	.392
Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.784
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	.784
Violence (excluding Suicide)	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	.784
Other Defined Diseases	11	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	3	3	4.312
Un-Defined Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	44	3	1	...	...	2	3	6	2	4	12	8	3	17.248

The Zymotic mortality was *nil*; the Tuberculous was above the average; the Malignant about half of what it was in the previous year. Heart Disease was high. Twenty-five per cent. of the deaths occurred in persons above 75 years of age.

Deaths of children under one year were three, nearly 7 per cent. of the total number. One occurred very shortly after birth, and two in the second week of life. Premature birth was given as the cause in two, and pneumonia in one. The infantile mortality-rate (calculated per 1000 births) was 81. In the previous year it was 67; in 1922 it was 89; and in 1921, 96. During the period 1911-20 it was 85; and during 1891-1910, 102.

Infectious Diseases.—The notifications received were 22, and included one of Scarlet Fever, twelve of Diphtheria, two of Pneumonia, and seven of Tuberculosis.

The single case of Scarlet Fever occurred in October. The patient was sent to Lochmaben Hospital, and no further cases were known to occur.

The twelve cases of Diphtheria occurred in ten families, there being eight with one case in each and two with two. The distribution in time—was one in January, nine in February, one in March, and one in October. Eleven were sent to Hospital. There were no fatalities.

The seven cases of Tuberculosis included six of Pulmonary Disease and one of Spinal. One case was sent to Lochmaben Sanatorium.

There were no cases of Smallpox. The Registrar intimated that he had received two Objections to Vaccination.

The figures in the following table are summarised from the return to the Board of Health :—

BURGH OF LOCKERBIE.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria	...	12	...	5	1	...	...	...	11	1

A.—UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	1	1	...
Diphtheria	...	12	...	5	1	11	1

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B.—IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis—										
Pulmonary	...	6	4	2	...	1	5
Non-pulmonary	...	1	1	1

TOTAL OF A AND B...	22	...	6	6	2	6	2	...	13	9
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Housing.—The number of occupied houses in the Burgh at the enumeration in April, 1924, was 653.

Of this number 22 were houses of one room, the population being 68. The houses with one inmate to each were seven, with two inmates three, with three three, with four inmates four, with five one, with six three, with seven one. The percentage of one-roomed houses to the total number was 3·4, the percentage of the population in them being 2·8, and the average number of persons to a house 3·1. Of the houses with more than three persons to each there were nine, the population in them being 46, or 67 per cent. of the total one-roomed population.

Of the two-roomed houses there were 144 in occupation, with a population of 543. Twenty-one were occupied by more than six persons to each, there being twelve with seven, five with eight, three with nine, and one with twelve. The population living in them was 163, or 30 per cent. of the total living in houses of two rooms.

Plans for four new buildings and alterations on six were passed by the Dean of Guild Court.

The Common Lodging-house continues to be well kept, and was found in a satisfactory state at the inspections made.

The Water Supply has been well maintained, and kept in a satisfactory state. Extensions have been made to a part where the pressure has been low, and to another part where building fees are being acquired.

The effluent from the Sewage Works has had a better appearance as a result of the works being overhauled.

Nuisances.—Three intimations under Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, were made by the Sanitary Inspector. These were attended to, and notices

under Section 20 were not required. Certain minor nuisances were remedied on verbal intimation.

Slaughter-house.—This is well conducted, and the meat produced generally found to be of high quality.

The Registered Dairies have always been found in a satisfactory state. The Creamery is licensed to sell pasteurised milk, having suitable plant for carrying out the process according to the requirements of the Board of Health.

The Workshops on the Register are satisfactorily kept. Fifty-nine visits of inspection were paid.

BURGH OF MOFFAT.

Area, 305 acres.

Population.—At the Thirteenth Decennial Census taken in June, 1921, when there were a number of visitors, the population was found to be 2426 (male 1087, female 1339). At the enumeration in April, 1924, there were 948 males and 1116 females, giving a total of 2064.

Births.—The births registered were 28 (17 male, 11 female). The rate per 1000 living was 13·566. The rate for 1923 was 18·518; for 1922, 15·640; and for 1921, 14·427. The average birth-rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	.....	18·532
1901-1910	.....	15·761
1911-1920	.....	16·337

Four births were illegitimate, giving a percentage of 14·3 to the total, and a rate per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 348) of 11·49.

The legitimate birth-rate per 1000 married women living between 15 and 45 (estimated at 150) was 160.

Deaths.—The number registered was 31. Five deaths of non-residents require to be deducted, and five of usual residents which occurred elsewhere to be added, leaving the total at 31, of which 14 were male and 17 female. The classification according to cause and in age-groups is shown in the table following. The rate per 1000 living was 15·018. Corrected for age and sex distribution (factor ·8154) this becomes 12·246. The rate in the previous year was 11·920; in 1922 it was 13·735; and in 1921, 7·704. The average corrected rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	.....	15·695
1901-1910	.....	12·025
1910-1920	.....	13·972

BURGH OF MOFFAT.—DEATHS IN 1924

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	Rate per 1000
Enteric Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1.790
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1.185
Tuberculous Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant Tumours	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3.950
Rheumatic Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not C.S. or Tub.) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1.185
Heart Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	1.975
Diseases of Arteries	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	1.975
Bronchitis	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1.710
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1.730
Other Respiratory Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (under 2 years) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.950
Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3.950
Nephritis (Bright's Disease)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3.950
Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c.	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.950
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violence (excluding Suicide) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	1.580
Ill-Defined Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	31	2	...	1	...	2	2	1	2	4	10	6	1	12.246

Deaths from Influenza were two. There were no Zymotic deaths proper. The Tuberculous death-rate was higher than in the previous year. The chief causes of death were diseases of Heart and Arteries (3.950). Apoplexy was responsible for three deaths, giving a rate of 1.185

per 1000 ; Respiratory Diseases for four (rate 1·580). The other defined causes were Senility (1), Anæmia (1), Gangrene (1), and Malaria (1).

There were two deaths of children under one year of age, slightly over six per cent. of the total. One occurred in the second week of life, and one in the second month. The infantile mortality-rate (calculated per 1000 births) was 71. In the previous year it was 27 ; in 1922, 31 ; in 1921, 28. The average of this rate during the period 1911-1920 was 38 ; from 1891 to 1910 it was 75.

Infectious Diseases.—The notifications received were 17, and included 9 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Diphtheria, 1 of Malaria, and 5 of Tuberculosis.

Most of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the last quarter of the year, there being one in July, four in October, one in November, and three in December. Six families were affected, four having one case in each, and two having two and three respectively. All the patients were removed to Lochmaben Hospital. Five had throat swabs taken, four of which proved negative to the Diphtheria Bacillus. The fifth was positive, and the patient had to be detained over three months in Hospital before negative swabs were obtained.

Of the two cases of Diphtheria, one was more of a "carrier" than a sufferer. The other case gave persistently positive swabs between 22nd November and 10th February, and had to be detained in Hospital for a period of 84 days. The Town Council have not yet entered into an agreement with the County Council for the examination of specimens from the Burgh in the County Laboratory. It is of interest to speculate on what might have happened in the Burgh had these cases been sent back without being swabbed in Hospital.

The single case of Malaria occurred in a young man who had acquired the infection abroad. The attack was a very severe one and proved fatal.

The cases of Tuberculosis were all of the Pulmonary form. Two were sent to Lochmaben Sanatorium.

There were no cases of Smallpox, and no report of Conscientious Objection was received.

The figures in the following table are summarised from the return to the Board of Health :—

BURGH OF MOFFAT.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DISEASE	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	4	4	1	...	...	...	9	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1

A.—UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	4	1	...	...	...	9	...
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1

B.—IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897

Malaria	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	1	2	2	2	3

TOTAL OF A AND B...	17	...	5	6	3	3	12	5
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Housing.—The enumeration made in April, 1924, showed that the number of occupied houses was 539 and of unoccupied 21.

The number of one-roomed occupied houses was two, with one inmate in each.

Of two-roomed houses 97 were returned as occupied, the population in them being 293, giving an average of 3 persons to each house. Only four had more than 6 inmates, there being two with seven in each, one with nine, and one with twelve, nearly twelve per cent. of the total two-roomed population.

Water Supply.—As previously reported, this is from springs on Granton. It is collected in underground concrete tanks and brought to the Burgh by two mains, one of 6 inches to the lower levels, and one of 9 inches to the higher. The Town Council are considering developments, and an engineer has been engaged to survey and report.

Sewerage and Sewage Works.—Being a residential town, there is no complication of the sewage problem such as occurs in most industrial areas. The sewage works consist of a septic tank and filters. The effluent finally reaches the Annan. No complaint has been received of pollution, and any that does occur is evidently not serious. The sewers have been maintained in good order. House drains have been kept under supervision. The smoke-test was applied by the Sanitary Inspector on six occasions to the drainage systems of new buildings, and on eight occasions to existing drainage systems.

Nuisances.—Twenty-three were dealt with by intimation under Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. In no instance was a notice under Section 20 of this Act required. These nuisances were largely the result of choked drains and defective sanitary fittings.

Slaughter-house.—This is the property of the Local Authority, and continues to be well maintained. There are no private slaughter-houses. No seizure of unsound meat was made during the year.

Milkshop.—There is one milkshop, which is regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector and found to be kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

The Bakeshops and Workshops have been found in a satisfactory state when inspected. There do not appear to be any Homeworkers within the meaning of the Factory and Workshops Acts, and no lists of Outworkers have been received.

BURGH OF LANGHOLM.

Area, 204 acres.

Population.—At the Thirteenth Decennial Census in 1921 this was 2655 (1151 male, 1504 female). At the enumeration in 1924 there were 1142 males and 1472 females, giving a total of 2614.

Births.—The births registered in the Burgh were 36 (13 male, 23 female). The rate per 1000 living was 13·772. The rate for the previous year was 13·413; for 1922 it was 21·493; and for 1921, 17·339. The average rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	20·112
1901-1910	17·895
1910-1920	15·028

There was one illegitimate birth, giving a rate per 1000 unmarried women and widows living between the ages of 15 and 45 (estimated at 459) of 2·18.

The legitimate birth-rate per 1000 married women living between 15 and 45 (estimated at 245) was 142·85.

Deaths.—The number registered was 52. Five deaths of usual residents which occurred elsewhere require to be added, making a total of 57, of which 25 were male and 32 female. The table following shows these classified according to cause and in age-groups. The rate per 1000 living was 21·805. Corrected for age and sex distribution (factor ·8269) this becomes 18·031. The corrected rate for the previous year was 12·937; for 1922, it was 15·136; and for 1921, 15·109. The averages of these rates for the three previous decades were :—

1891-1900	14·545
1901-1910	14·876
1911-1920	15·195

BURGH OF LANGHOLM.—DEATHS IN 1924.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-	Total per 1000
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	51
Typhus Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	315
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Phthisis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Tuberculous Meningitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
Other Tuberculous Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malignant Tumours	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	...	2214
Rheumatic Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mononucleosis (not C.S. or Tub.) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	1265
Heart Disease	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	1	...	2531
Diseases of Arteries . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	633
Pneumonia (all forms) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (under 2 years) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	316
Nephritis (Bright's Disease) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Sepsis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy, &c. . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1265
Suicide . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violence (excluding Suicide)	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	633
Other Defined Diseases	20	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	7	4	632
Ill-Defined Diseases	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	1582
TOTAL	57	6	3	...	...	2	2	1	6	11	9	13	4	18031

One death from a Zymotic cause, Enteric Fever, was returned. The Widal re-action was negative. The Tuberculous death-rate was low, the Malignant high. The combined rate for Apoplexy and Heart Diseases was 3.794. Eight of the 20 deaths classified as "Other Defined Causes"

were returned as due to Senility, one of them being over 70, three between 75 and 85, and four were over 85. The total number of deaths over 75 were 17, or 29.8 per cent. of the total.

There were six deaths of children under one year of age. They included one of Abdominal Tuberculosis, three of Marasmus, one of Premature Birth, and one of Cerebral Compression. The percentage to the total number of deaths was 10.5; the rate per 1000 births, 167. This latter—the infantile mortality rate—was 28 in the previous year: 70 in 1922: and 65 in 1921. The average rates for the decades 1911-20 was 63: from 1891 to 1910 it was 93.

Infectious Diseases.—Ten notifications were received. They included one case of Enteric Fever, three of Scarlet Fever, and six of Tuberculosis.

The case notified as Enteric Fever was one of considerable difficulty, and the Widal test proved negative. The patient died two days after removal to Hospital.

Of the three cases of Scarlet Fever two occurred in February and one in September. All were removed to Hospital, where they made good recoveries.

Of the six cases of Tuberculosis one was Pulmonary, one Glandular, one Spinal, one Joint, and two Abdominal. The case of Pulmonary Disease was sent to Lochmaben Sanatorium. One patient notified in the previous year was also sent to Sanatorium.

There were no cases of Smallpox, and only one intimation of Conscientious Objection to Vaccination was reported.

The table below is a summary of the return made to the Board of Health:—

BURGH OF LANGHOLM.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...

A.—UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

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B.—NOTIFIED IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 78 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Tuberculosis—

Pulmonary	...	1	1	1	...
Non-pulmonary	...	5	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	5

TOTAL OF A AND B	10	...	2	3	1	1	3	...	5	5
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Housing.—The enumeration made in April 1924 showed 790 occupied and 20 unoccupied houses in the Burgh.

Of the occupied houses 25 were returned as having one room only. There were 13 with one inmate to each, 7 with two, and 5 with three.

The two-roomed houses were 190, the population in them being 577, or an average of three persons per house. Three of the houses were returned as having seven inmates in each, four as having eight, and one nine.

Tents and Vans.—These have been kept under supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, who made eight inspections and reported them to be in a satisfactory state.

The Water Supply (which is from springs on Torrona) was well maintained during the year. It is now being introduced into houses, forty-five of these having bad taps and sinks fixed.

Sewage.—The installation for the treatment of the sewage before an effluent is allowed to pass into the river has been completed, and is now in operation. Conditions have been favourable as regards the volume of the river, which has been sufficient as yet to dilute the effluent to such an extent as to avoid nuisance.

Slaughter-houses.—There is no public slaughter-house. Three private slaughter-houses are licensed by the Town Council. The Sanitary Inspector, acting as Detention Officer under the Meat Inspection Regulations, has paid 205 visits to these. He found none of the carcasses presenting appearances of disease or conditions requiring the attendance of the Meat Inspector.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These remain as previously reported. There are four on the Register with twenty-

three cows. One retail shop sells milk produced outside the Burgh. Ten inspections have been made and the premises found in a cleanly state.

Workshops.—There are now thirty on the Register. Twenty-four inspections have been made. The Factory Inspector reported defective ventilation in one, which has since been remedied by an exhaust ventilator fitted in the roof. No other defects were found.

APPENDIX.

Notification of Births Acts, 1907 and 1915.

The number of Births intimated under these Acts in the County Landward was 965, and in the Burghs of Annan, Sanquhar, Lochmaben, Lockerbie, Moffat, and Langholm 237, giving a total of 1202 births intimated to the county Health Office. Those include 38 still-births which are not registered, giving a total of 1164 live births.

The figures for 1924 are :—

	Births.			Notified by—				Total
	Total Registered	Total Notified.	Still Births.	Doctor.	Midwife.	Nurse or Health Visitor.	Parent or Guardian.	
Thornhill District	337	324	12	277	33	6	8	324
Dumfries District	177	164	8	130	...	20	14	164
Annan District ...	249	259	4	189	57	5	8	259
Lockerbie District	166	162	3	146	...	11	5	162
Langholm District	61	56	3	52	...	2	2	56
Burghs	239	237	8	230	...	3	4	237
38								
Total	1229	1202		1024	90	47	41	1202

Twenty-four births were transferred to areas outwith the County. In four instances the parents were found to have removed before a visit was paid, leaving no address. Forty-two births were transferred in from outside areas.

One thousand and sixty-five of those infants, and 139 of those notified during 1923, were visited during the current year, making a total of 1204 infants under supervision. The work was carried out by two Health Visitors and seventeen District Nurses, a Local Nursing Association

now being in operation at Penpont, in addition to those existing at the end of last year.

The work of visitation was divided as follows : —

	Infants notified during 1924.	Previously notified.	Total.
Health Visitors	255	111	366
Nursing Associations.			
Sanquhar and Kirkconnel	203	7	210
Lower Annandale ...	133	1	134
Annan	123	5	128
Lockerbie	79	2	81
Thornhill	69	3	72
Moffat	51	5	56
Lochnaben	44	2	46
Glencairn	28	2	30
Dalton and Mouswald ...	21	1	22
Canonbie... ..	21	...	21
Kirkmichael and Garrel	16	...	16
Dunscore	11	...	11
Ruthwell... ..	8	...	8
Penpont	3	...	3
Total	1065	139	1204

64.5% were found to be wholly breast-fed.

3.8% were found to be partly breast-fed.

31.7% were found to be bottle-fed.

The long-tubed bottle was found in eleven instances, and a more suitable type recommended.

One mother refused to have her infant weighed. As noted last year, this indicates the survival of an ancient superstition—a desire to avoid drawing the attention of malignant spirits to the child's condition.

The following conditions were noted :—

(a) *Amongst Infants.*

Eye Conditions (mostly slight discharges)	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7
Digestive Troubles	24
Skin Eruptions	17
Bronchitis	12
Congenital Defects	8
Debility	5
Convulsions	3
Adenitis	3
Pneumonia	2
Whooping-cough	2
Rubella	1
Other Conditions	8

One infant was found to be verminous when first visited. Improper methods of feeding were specially noted in 17 instances, and clothing defects in 4.

(b) *Amongst Mothers.*

Mammary Inflammation or Abscess	5
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens	2
Nephritis	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	4
Anæmia	5
Puerperal Fever	2
Other Conditions	4

Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915.

Nine midwives, certified by the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, intimated their intention to practise in the Districts of Thornhill, Dumfries, and Annan. No such intimations were received from the Districts of Lockerbie and Langholm. The midwives who gave intimation were :—

In Thornhill District—

Jane Cardie, 4 Aisne Street, Kirkconnel.

Mary Waugh, Dunseore.

In Dumfries District—

Margaret Callender, Craigend Cottage, Dumfries.

Carina Gilruth, Johnstone Place, Dumfries.

In Annan District—

Ruth Evelyn Cromarty, 26 The Rand, Eastriggs.

Sarah Ferguson, C East 9, Gretna.

Annie Jane McCarl, Springfield, Gretna.

Nurse Jardine, Victory Avenue, Gretna.

Nurse Patterson, The Braes, Kirtlebridge.

The two last named are nurses appointed by the Lower Annandale Nursing Association. Practically the certified midwives act as maternity nurses in addition.

The births attended by midwives during 1924, and the percentage to the total births notified and registered, were :—

Districts.	Total Births Registered	Total Births Notified.	Attended by Midwives	Percentage attended by Midwives.	
				Registered.	Notified
Thornhill	337	324	33	9.8	10.2
Dumfries		164	.....	.....	.....
Annan	249	259	57	22.9	22.0

Reports from midwives included two notifications of Still-births. Medical assistance was called for on account of Malpresentation (two cases). Rupture of Perineum (one case), and Prolonged Labour (one case).

No cases of Puerperal Fever occurred amongst the confinements attended by midwives.

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER'S REPORT.

The County Medical Officer.

Sir, .

I have to report that during the year ended 31st December, 1924, the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified in the five County Districts and in the Burghs of Annan, Sanquhar, Lochmaben, Lockerbie, Moffat, and Langholm was 151. This is an increase of 17 on last year's figures, and is the highest number received in any year since 1918. It is worth noting, however, that the *Pulmonary* notifications are only 4 in excess of last year, while the *Non-pulmonary* are higher than in any year since notification was made compulsory. It is probable that this indicates more complete notification of minor *Non-pulmonary* conditions rather than any increased prevalence of the disease.

The cases are classified as follows :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary	44	45	89
Non-pulmonary	31	31	62
	—	—	—
Total	75	76	151

The number of cases notified in Districts and Burghs since 1914, with the rate of notifications per 1000 of the population, has been :—

Year	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.	Rate per 1000 living.
1914	109	22	131	2.4
1915	89	45	134	2.5
1916	142	56	198	3.4
1917	117	54	171	2.6
1918	117	40	157	2.4
1919	95	44	139	2.3
1920	94	33	127	2.2
1921	98	40	138	2.3
1922	81	37	118	2.0
1923	85	49	134	2.3
1924	89	62	151	2.5

The Non-pulmonary cases comprised :—

Tuberculosis of Glands	.....	31
Tuberculosis of Abdomen	.....	8
Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints	.....	19
Tuberculosis of Skin	.....	2
Tuberculosis of Central Nervous System	.....	1
Tuberculosis of Other Parts	.....	1
		—
Total	.....	62

In addition, 7 cases notified as Pulmonary had Non-pulmonary complications.

The QUARTERLY INCIDENCE of NOTIFICATIONS was :—

First	.....	38
Second	.....	43
Third	.....	29
Fourth	.....	41
		—
Total	.....	151

The areas from which cases were notified were :—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Thornhill District	31	27	58
Dumfries District	15	7	22
Annan District	14	10	24
Lockerbie District	5	5	10
Langholm District	6	.....	6
Annan Burgh	3	2	5
Sanquhar Burgh	2	3	5
Lockerbie Burgh	6	1	7
Moffat Burgh	5	.....	5
Langholm Burgh	1	5	6
Lochnaben Burgh	1	2	3
		—	—
Total	89	62	151

The AGE INCIDENCE was :—

Under 1 year	
1-5 years	13
5-15 years	28
15-25 years	41
25-45 years	50
45-65 years	18
Over 65 years	1

151

These figures, which correspond fairly closely to the average for recent years, indicate the prevalence of Tuberculosis during the most useful years of life. This is even more evident when the age at death from Tuberculosis is considered. The following table shows the deaths from *Pulmonary Tuberculosis* for the last ten years, classified according to age groups :—

COUNTY AND SIX BURGH.

DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.													
	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total	
1915	1	1	2	12	25	14	9	8	1	...	73
1916	2	1	1	16	11	11	7	6	5	...	60
1917	1	1	15	16	19	7	6	...	...	65
1918	3	15	13	14	9	11	4	...	69
1919	1	5	16	15	7	7	8	4	...	63
1920	2	...	11	15	10	5	4	5	...	52
1921	1	2	14	14	7	7	1	3	...	49
1922	4	10	12	8	4	5	3	2	48
1923	1	...	1	12	9	13	7	7	3	...	53
1924	1	...	...	10	8	10	7	3	2	...	41
Total for 10													
years	5	7	19	131	138	113	69	59	30	2	573
Percentage	...	0.9	1.2	3.3	22.9	24.1	19.8	12.0	10.3	5.2	0.3	100	

66.8%

It will be noted that almost 67 per cent. of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have occurred between the ages of 15 and 44. The economic loss consequent on those deaths during youth and early adult life is obvious. During the earlier part of the period the patient is just beginning to be of use to the community, to repay what his upbringing and education have cost his parents and the State. During the latter part he should be at his best, so far as work is concerned, and in addition often has a young family depending on him who are left by his death in straitened circumstances, likely to militate against their future success and usefulness. Quite apart from humanitarian considerations, these premature deaths represent a serious and irreparable loss to the community.

Trade or Profession.

Of the total notified, 32 were of no profession and 29 were school children. The occupations of the others were :—

Domestic Duties	36	Blacksmith	1
Miners	8	Engraver	1
Labourers	7	Forester	1
Farmers and Farm		Gamekeeper	1
Workers	4	Gas Works Foreman	1
Factory Operatives	3	Meat Inspector	1
Masons	3	Nurse (Sick)	1
Vagrants	3	Painter	1
Carters	2	Postman	1
Clerks	2	Quarryman	1
Engineers	2	Railwayman	1
Motor Mechanics	2	Sailor	1
Shepherds	2	Sawmiller	1
Shopkeepers & Assistants	2	Soldier	1

Four male patients in the above list were ex-soldiers.

Housing Conditions.

Cases occurring in houses of 1 room	2
Cases occurring in houses of 2 rooms	48
Cases occurring in houses of 3 rooms	36
Cases occurring in houses of 4 rooms	28
Cases occurring in houses of 5 rooms	2
Cases occurring in houses of 6 rooms and over	35

Amongst the last-mentioned, 12 were notified from Crichton Royal, 1 from the Hope Hospital, Langholm, and 3 from Common Lodging-houses.

After-History.

Of the 151 notified cases, 30 had died, 3 had left the County, and 118 survived at the end of the year. Among the deaths—

- 6 took place before notification.
- 15 took place within a month of notification.
- 3 took place in one to three months after notification.
- 5 took place in three to six months after notification.
- 1 took place over six months after notification.

The percentage of cases notified (a) after death and (b) within a month before death during the period 1914-1924 inclusive is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Died before notification.		Died within a month of notification.		Total.
	No.	%	No.	%	
1914 ...	14	10.7	10	7.6	18.3
1915 ...	14	10.5	12	9.0	19.5
1916 ...	11	5.5	31	15.6	21.1
1917 ...	4	2.3	29	16.9	19.2
1918 ...	7	4.4	21	13.5	17.9
1919 ...	7	5.0	16	11.5	16.5
1920 ...	6	4.7	12	9.4	14.1
1921 ...	3	2.1	12	8.7	10.8
1922 ...	3	2.5	6	5.0	7.5
1923 ...	2	1.5	14	10.0	11.5
1924 ...	6	3.9	15	9.9	13.8

(Percentages calculated on total notification for the year.)

From this it will be seen that the percentage of cases dying before notification, though rather higher during 1924 than it had been for several years, is greatly reduced from that recorded when notification was made compulsory.

That of cases dying within a month of notification has not shown much variation, save for a rise during the war years 1916-18.

Treatment.

(1) General Administrative Methods.

These remain as described in previous reports.

(2) Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment.

Of the 151 persons notified, 57 were admitted to Hospital or Sanatorium during the year. In addition, 17 previously notified were admitted or re-admitted, making a total of 74. (By a curious coincidence these figures are exactly the same as those for 1923.)

Their disposal was :—

	Notified in 1924.	Previously notified.	Total.
Lochnaben Sanatorium	35	13	48
Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary	22	4	26
	—	—	—
Total	57	17	74

The average number of admissions to institutions during the past ten years has been 45.4 per cent. of the annual notifications. For 1924 it was 49 per cent.

Five patients at Meathop and 6 at Bridge-of-Weir who were in residence in those institutions at the beginning of the year continued treatment for varying periods. All were discharged before the end of the year save one, who is still in Bridge-of-Weir on account of the very unsatisfactory home conditions to which she will eventually have to return.

In addition to those mentioned above, 5 persons notified during the year are understood to have received institutional treatment on private arrangement.

The after-history of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis treated at home and in sanatoria during the five years 1920-24 inclusive is shown, so far as it is known, in the following table. Patients who have left the County are not included, as details of their present condition are not available.

	Sanatorium Cases.	Domiciliary Cases.
Died within 1 year of notification	21.4 ⁰ / ₀	40.5 ⁰ / ₀
Died within 2 years of notification	14.2 ⁰ / ₀	14.5 ⁰ / ₀
Died within 3 years of notification	8.5 ⁰ / ₀	2.2 ⁰ / ₀
Died within 4 years of notification	2.6 ⁰ / ₀	2.2 ⁰ / ₀
Died within 5 years of notification	...	0.6 ⁰ / ₀
Alive at end of 1924	53.3 ⁰ / ₀	40.0 ⁰ / ₀
Total	100.0 ⁰ / ₀	100.0 ⁰ / ₀

It must be recollected that a considerable number of the "sanatorium cases" were sent to Lochmaben, not with much hope of improvement but to remove them from surroundings where they were likely to spread the disease. Their inclusion in the above table makes the result of sanatorium treatment appear on the figures less satisfactory than it really is.

(3). Domiciliary Treatment.

(a) In addition to visits paid by the Tuberculosis Officer, 1739 visits to tuberculous persons were made by Health Visitors, and by District Nurses in those areas where there are Nursing Associations undertaking statutory duties.

(b) Provision of Medicines.—The system on which prescription books are issued to patients, the prescriptions checked and forwarded to the Central Checking Bureau for pricing remains as before.

During the year under review medicine was provided for 87 patients on Domiciliary Treatment.

(c) Medical Comforts.—Those were supplied during the year to eleven patients, of whom nine suffered from

Pulmonary and two from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. Six were in receipt of medical comforts at the end of the year.

(d) Medical Appliances.—Those were supplied in three instances—a spinal jacket to a patient from Moffat, contribution to the cost of an artificial foot to a patient in Dumfries District, and a pneumatic ring cushion to a patient in Thornhill District.

(e) Shelters.—The County Council possesses at present 30 shelters. Three of those are still at Lochmaben Hospital and two are vacant, leaving twenty-five in use. Twenty-seven patients have occupied shelters during the year.

Prevalence of Tuberculosis.

The number of persons resident in the County who suffer, or have suffered, from Tuberculosis is estimated as follows:—

	Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.	Apparently Affected.	Total.
Thornhill District	34	42	18	94
Dumfries District	11	11	4	26*
Annan District	28	23	14	65†
Lockerbie District	17	11	5	33
Langholm District	5		1	6
Annan Burgh	7	4	4	15
Sanquhar Burgh	4	5	1	10
Lockerbie Burgh	7	3	1	11
Moffat Burgh	7	2		9
Langholm Burgh	5	5	6	16
Lochmaben Burgh	2	4	1	7
Total	127	110	55	292

* Excluding cases in C.R.I.

† Excluding cases in M.O.P. Hospital, Gretna.

The death-rate is of greater importance than the notification rate so far as estimating the prevalence of Tuberculosis is concerned. In the County Landward

and the six Burghs the death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1924 was 0.699 per 1000 of the population, and from all forms of Tuberculosis 0.989 per 1000. The following table shows how these figures compare with those of former years :—

DEATH-RATE PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.

	Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.	Total.
1891-1910 (mean)	1.647	0.692	2.339
1911-1920 (mean)	1.028	0.353	1.381
1921	0.839	0.117	0.954
1922	0.859	0.214	1.073
1923	0.910	0.240	1.150
1924	0.699	0.290	0.989

When the figures for 1921-24 are compared with those for the twenty years 1891-1910, the decided fall in the death-rate which has taken place since the beginning of this century is obvious. The figures for 1924 are less than half the average for 1891-1910. The fall, though subject, of course, to annual variations, has been continuous, and is part of the general fall in the Tuberculosis death-rate which has been observed throughout the whole country for many years.

To claim that this fall is entirely due to administrative action or medical treatment would be unjustified. It is due to a great number of factors, social and economic, many of them too obscure for analysis. There can be no doubt, however, that notification, early treatment, isolation, house-disinfection, &c., play a very important part, and are, at present, more urgent than ever in view of the prevailing housing shortage and unemployment and the deleterious effect they are likely to have on national health.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN RITCHIE,

Tuberculosis Officer.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Laboratory Examinations.—These numbered 184, and comprised 114 Wassermann tests, 3 examinations for *Spirochaeta pallidum*, and 67 for Gonococci.

Fifty-nine of the examinations were made for patients attending at the Clinic at Kirkbank. Twenty-five were of specimens sent by practitioners in Dumfries Burgh, thirty-six from the rest of Dumfriesshire, eight from Maxwelltown, twelve from the rest of the Stewartry, one from Wigtownshire, and twenty-seven from the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. The others were for Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Out-Patient Treatment.—Twenty-five cases attended for treatment in 1924, and twenty-two old cases continued treatment. These made 270 attendances, of which 140 were made by new patients, an average of 5.6 to each. Twenty-three suffered from Syphilis, twenty-three from Gonorrhœa, and one from both infections.

Eight patients completed a first course. Nine ceased to attend, and one left the District.

Ex-patients are instructed to attend at three, six, and twelve-monthly intervals for Blood (Wassermann) Tests.

Ninety-four doses of Novarsenobillon and Stabilarzan were given intra-venously, and eighty-six hypodermic doses of Gonococcal Vaccine. Practitioners were supplied with thirty-three doses of Neo-Kharsivan.

Laboratory Tables of Examination of Specimens.

QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31st, 1924.

	+	-	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria	186	335	521
Swabs for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	5
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	9	73	82
Sputa for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	14
Blood for Wassermanns	8	24	32
Blood for Widal's	0	1	1
Blood for Anthrax	6	12	18
Blood for Malaria ... ..	...	...	0
Blood for Culture	1	...	1
Blood for Miscellaneous Examinations ... ..	...	...	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Organisms ... ..	...	...	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Wassermanns ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Other Examinations ... ..	...	...	...
Examinations for Gonococci	2	10	12
Examinations for Spirochaeta Pallidum	0	1	1
Pus and Pathological Fluids ... ..	...	...	10
Faeces ... ..	...	...	4
Urines ... ..	...	...	2
Milk ... ..	...	...	11
Water ... ..	...	...	39
Miscellaneous Examinations :—			
Hair for Ringworm ... ..	...	...	1
Total ... ..	...	...	766

Vaccines, 6.

QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30th, 1924.

							Total
Swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	...	64	212	276	
Swabs for Other Organisms	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	18	89	107	
Sputa for Other Organisms	...	...	...	...	...	16	
Blood for Wassermanns	...	...	...	22	13	35	
Blood for Widal's	...	...	...	3	8	11	
Blood for Anthrax	...	...	...	6	18	24	
Blood for Malaria	...	...	...	0	3	3	
Blood for Culture	...	...	...	...	...	0	
Blood for Miscellaneous Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Organisms	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Wassermanns	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Other Examinations	...	...	...	...	...	...
Examinations for Gonococci	...	...	...	6	13	19	
Examinations for Spirochaeta Pallidum	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pus and Pathological Fluids	...	...	...	...	...	9	
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Urines	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	15	
Water	...	...	...	...	...	44	
Miscellaneous Examinations:							
Hair for Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	575	

Vaccines, 4.

QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1924.

	+	-	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria	59	184	243
Swabs for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	1
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	11	51	62
Sputa for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	15
Blood for Wassermanns	12	12	24
Blood for Widal's	2	2	4
Blood for Anthrax	2	19	21
Blood for Malaria ... ..	...	...	...
Blood for Culture ... ..	...	...	...
Blood for Miscellaneous Examinations ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Organisms ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Wassermanns ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Other Examinations ... ..	...	...	...
Examinations for Gonococci	5	14	19
Examinations for Spirochaeta Pallidum	0	2	2
Pus and Pathological Fluids ... ..	...	...	3
Faeces ... ..	...	...	1
Urinés ... ..	...	...	8
Milk ... ..	...	...	6
Water ... ..	...	...	34
Miscellaneous Examinations :—			
Tooth for Organisms ... ..	...	...	2
Hair for Ringworm ... ..	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	445

QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1924.

	+	-	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria	66	177	243
Swabs for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	4
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	20	76	96
Sputa for Other Organisms ... ..	...	...	10
Blood for Wassermanns	10	13	23
Blood for Widal's	1	6	7
Blood for Anthrax	4	13	17
Blood for Malaria	0	1	1
Blood for Culture	0	0	0
Blood for Miscellaneous Examinations ... ..	...	...	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Organisms	0	4	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Wassermanns	0	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid for Other Examinations ... ..	...	...	0
Examinations for Gonococci	9	11	20
Examinations for Spirochæta Pallidum	0	0	0
Pus and Pathological Fluids ... ..	...	...	11
Fæces ... ..	...	...	0
Urines ... ..	...	...	8
Milk ... ..	...	...	9
Water ... ..	...	...	29
Miscellaneous Examinations —			
Hair for Ringworm ... ..	...	...	1
Total ... ..	...	...	486

Vaccines, 2.

SOURCES OF SPECIMENS.

	Localities Landward	Dumfries Burgh	Juniper and Ballinay Road Infirmary	Burgh of Maxwelltown	Burgh of Annaly	Burgh of Locheilzie	Burgh of Langholm	Burgh of Locheilzie	Burgh of Stenburgh	Burgh of Mithal	Stewarton and Westtown	School Medical Officer	Total
Swabs	857	170	41	146	30	23	2	18	3	3	...	3	1296
Sputa	166	112	11	64	19	14	6	5	4	1	...	...	402
Wassermann's	31	20	17	10	8	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	114
Widals...	9	6	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Anthrax	77	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	80
Malaria	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Blood Cultures	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Blood Examinations	10	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Gonococci	18	28	10	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	71
Spirochæta Pallidum	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	5	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Fæces	6	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Urine	6	6	7	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Urus and Pathological Fluids	6	6	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Milk	37	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	41
Water	146	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Miscellaneous	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Total	1381	354	110	239	64	39	8	24	7	4	33	6	2272

COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

THIRTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

*Health and Sanitary Condition of
the County.*

1925.

BY

JOHN RITCHIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer.

DUMFRIES:
ROBERT DINWIDDIE, PRINTER AND LITHOGRAPHER.